linkage or due to quantity under linkage being inadequate through a transparent manner.

(c) and (d) Some of the consumers have made requests to stop the auctioning process. They have also preferred various writ petitions which are presently under adjudication before the Hon'ble Supreme Court. The sale of coal through e-marketing is continuing based on the encouraging reports on the performance of this scheme.

Production and demand of coal

T415. SHRIMOTILALVORA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the gap between production and demand of coal at present in the country;

(b) the steps Government have taken to fulfill the gap;

(c) whether Government have formulated any contingency plan for coal production;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the extent by which the production of coal would be increased by the same and by when;

(e) whether it is a fact that coal mafia are engaged in coal exploration from several coal mines illegally; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the steps Government have taken to prevent the same?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI SHIBU SOREN): (a) and (b) Planning Commission has estimated coal demand of 445.65 million tonnes during the year 2005-06. This demand is planned to be met from domestic supply of 406.48 million tonnes. With proposed imports of 23.89 million tonnes of coking coal for steel sector and 13.45 million tonnes of non-coking coal for power utilities, there will be small gap in coal availability which will be met from enhanced production from indigenous sources.

(c) and (d) Government has drawn an emergency coal production plan in the subsidiary companies of Coal India Limited. 16 open cast projects/mines have been identified where production from the existing mines/projects can be enhanced to a higher level, yielding additional 71.13

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

million tonnes of coal production. The built up of incremental production will be 8 million tonnes for the first year and progressively reaching to 71.13 million tonnes in eight years.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise in view of reply given in (e) above.

Royalty for coal mining

416. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage/ratio of royalty given to the States for mining of coal and lignite separately;

(b) when the royalty on coal and lignite was last revised; and

(c) the criteria for revising the rate of royalty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARINARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) The existing rates of royalty on coal are ranging from Rs. 90.00 to Rs. 250.00 per tonne, depending upon the grade. These rates were last revised on 16.08.2002. The royalty on lignite is Rs. 50.00 per tonne and it was last revised on 15.03.2001. Proceeds from royalty accrue entirely to the State Government. The amount of royalty paid to the State Governments during last three years is given below:—

(Rs. in crore)

State	Amount of Royalty Paid		
	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005
West Bengal	9.96	9.48	9.31
Jharkhand	649.89	743.14	735.89
Orissa	310.10	40313	460.43
Madhya Pradesh	431.86	501.07	529.63
Chhattisgarh	427.58	491.32	533.47
Maharashtra	258.90	282.01	292.95
Uttar Pradesh	149.31	145.67	159.92
Assam	10.00	14.35	12.71
Tamil Nadu	93.14	96.02	107.84
Andhra Pradesh	278.24	304.40	315.00
TOTAL:	2619.01	2990.59	3157.15